



Working Group Report to the Board

Working Group: Youth Working Group (YWG)

Champion: Arash Ghafoori & Melissa Jacobowitz (NPHY)

Meeting date, time, and location: (4th Tuesdays); March 22, 2022, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am via Google Hangouts

Attendees: NPHY: Arash Ghafoori, Melissa Jacobowitz, Allison Steinzor; CCSS: Catherine Huang Hara, Mary Duff, Shylo Endris; DFS: Isabel Ireheta; BitFocus: Gabriel Di Chiara; HELP: Kim Moore; SJR: Ketra Johnson; StepUp: Joe Taylor; Foresight Housing: Hassan Chaudhry; Legal Aid: Jaymie Junsay; The Center: AJ Huth; ed.Xtraordinary: Andy Lott; UNLV: Andrea Martinez

Accomplishments - Action Items Completed:

- Funding Opportunities
 - Clark County shared that CoC Renewal Project applications will be opening in spring; the 2021 awards were recently announced (all Tier I projects were funded, and no Tier II or DV bonus projects were awarded). Monitoring for ESG and CoC-funded projects will be taking place next week.
- Youth Action Board: Young Adults in Charge
 - The CoC's youth action board, Young Adults in Charge (YAC), is a leadership group for youth, ages 15 through 24, with lived experiences of homelessness and/or a strong desire to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. Representatives from NPHY, HELP of Southern Nevada, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, and Clark County met virtually to plan a kick-off meeting to recruit new YAC members – each agreed to bring at least one youth client to attend the meeting. Clark County expressed they would support the group by providing appreciation stipends; YAC members will need to share their preference for receiving stipends and either file a 1099 form with Clark County for direct deposit or checks or obtain a gift card from their service provider agency (Clark County will provide the gift cards), along with preferences around timing of payments.
 - Next Steps: The YAC Kick-Off Meeting will be taking place from 2 pm to 3 pm on Thursday, April 7, via Google Hangouts. All YWG Members are encouraged to invite youth clients to participate in this meeting.
- Community Needs Assessment/YHDP
 - The CoC is working on updating its Community Needs Assessment, as it has been five years since the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness (The Plan) debuted. The County posted a Scope of Work to recruit a TA provider to lead this process; interest must be expressed by Monday, March 28, 2022 and applicants have until April 18, 2022 to send back a five-page bid. Four TA providers have applied thus far.
- Casey Life Skills (CLS) Discussion
 - Casey Family Programs is making changes to its CLS platform and recently revised its assessment tool. The CLS platform will no longer be collecting data and providers must administer the tool and collect the data themselves. Multiple youth-serving homeless service providers use this tool to measure self-sufficiency among clients. The YWG asked BitFocus whether it might be possible to make changes to this tool in HMIS and/or create a client-facing setup for youth to take the assessment independently. BitFocus expressed that they have just recently piloted a new client-facing HMIS module in another community and that they may be able to create a Looker dashboard to review youths' progress.
 - Next Steps: The YWG Champions will send BitFocus the CSL assessment so they can create a scope of work on what it would require to update the version of the CLS tool in the HMIS platform.
- Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Training
 - At the last YWG meeting, members discovered that service providers often confuse gender identity (aka transgender) with sexual orientation when collecting client data. The Nevada Legislature recently passed SB 109, which requires government agencies to collect client data on sexual orientation and report aggregate data to the Legislative Bureau annually. The YWG discussed that it would be helpful to administer a survey to assess service providers' knowledge on this topic and create standards for definitions and training. Clark County expressed that a Mainstream Programs Basic Training on this topic could be beneficial to promote cultural competence.
 - Next Steps: NPHY and The Center volunteered to create a survey to assess service providers' knowledge on this topic, identify needs, and CCSS will update providers on when the MPBT schedule will reconvene.
- Training Opportunities
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) [Motivational Interviewing for Youth Work: More than Just a Clinical Tool](#) (3/3, 4/7, 5/17 from 10 am to 2 pm PST)
- The next YWG Meeting will be from 9 am to 11 am on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.